

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

Call to Order: By **VICE CHAIRMAN DAVE LEWIS**, on February 13, 2001
at 3:27 P.M., in Room 102 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Dave Lewis, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Matt McCann, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. John Brueggeman (R)
Rep. Rosalie (Rosie) Buzzas (D)
Rep. Tim Callahan (D)
Rep. Edith Clark (R)
Rep. Bob Davies (R)
Rep. Stanley Fisher (R)
Rep. Dick Haines (R)
Rep. Joey Jayne (D)
Rep. Dave Kasten (R)
Rep. Christine Kaufmann (D)
Rep. Monica Lindeen (D)
Rep. Jeff Pattison (R)
Rep. Art Peterson (R)
Rep. Joe Tropila (D)
Rep. John Witt (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Steve Vick, Chairman (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Paula Broadhurst, Committee Secretary
Taryn Purdy, Legislative Branch

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HB 501 HB 509, 2/13/2001
Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 509

SPONSOR: Rep. Rosalie Buzzas, HD 65, Missoula

PROPOSERS: James Azzara, Administrator of the Northern Rocky Heritage Center; Andy Sponsellar, Board Member, Northern Rocky Heritage Center

OPPOSERS:

OPENING STATEMENT BY SPONSOR:

Rep. Rosalie Buzzas, HD 65, Missoula, introduced HB 509 which would appropriate \$100,000 from the general fund to the Department of Commerce to provide a grant to the Rocky Mountain Heritage Center for remodeling buildings at Fort Missoula.

PROPOSERS:

James Azzara, Administrator of the Northern Rocky Heritage Center, spoke in favor of HB 509. **EXHIBIT (aph36a01)**
EXHIBIT (aph36a02)

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 9.6}

Andy Sponsellar, Board Member, Northern Rocky Heritage Center, commented that they have a unique opportunity to preserve one of Montanas most valuable architectural treasures. This valuable partnership would achieve two different goals, one being historic preservation, the other providing service to the community. He stood in support of HB 509.

OPPOSERS: None.

INFORMATIONAL WITNESS: None.

QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND RESPONSES:

Rep. Peterson asked what relationship this organization has with other state historical groups or the university.

James Azzara answered all the buildings are on the historic register and they operate under state regulations, and they have a close alliance with the State Historic Preservation Association.

Rep. Peterson asked if there is any funding available from those organizations Mr. Azzara just mentioned.

James Azzar stated they are pursuing those avenues but they feel they have to reach out in multiple directions.

Rep. Tropila asked what matching formula they expect from federal grants.

Rep. Buzzas answered that she thinks that there are a variety of opportunities available but they do require some local match, so they would use it as leverage for additional funds.

James Azzar answered when base re-alignment and closure process deeded these properties to them, it was anticipated that the assets would make use of local and state funding sources to bring it into full community use.

Rep. McCann commented there is a program for this project, including the Long Range Building Program, and it would nice to see this facility go into that Program. He encouraged them to apply for the Cultural Aesthetics Grant as he felt this would be a good candidate.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 16.1}

CLOSING BY SPONSOR:

Rep. Rosalie Buzzas closed on HB 509.

HEARING ON HB 501

SPONSOR: Rep. Dave Gallik, HD 52, Helena

PROPONENTS: Sharron Quisenberry, Dean and Director of the College of Agriculture at Montana State University

OPPONENTS: None.

OPENING STATEMENT BY SPONSOR:

Rep. Dave Gallik, HD 52, Helena introduced HB 501 which is an act requiring the Department of Agriculture to conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing an Agri-Business Center in Montana, which would also provide an Agri-Business Center Study Council.

PROPONENTS: None.

OPPONENTS: None.

INFORMATIONAL WITNESS:

Sharon Quisenberry, Dean and Director of the College of Agriculture at Montana State University, commented that urban development does not overflow into rural economic development. She stated that this is exactly what the state needs and that Montana needs to diversify and do a lot more than it is already doing.

QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND RESPONSES:

Rep. Fisher asked why the University hasn't broadened out the use of Agricultural Stations in a budgetary manner instead of coming in with a separate bill.

Sharron Quisenberry answered she did not budget this program and she had just become aware of HB 501 recently.

Rep. Fisher asked why, if there is such a desire to help the agricultural business, haven't they budgeted the \$6.5 million they asked for outside of the University System.

Sharron Quisenberry, answered, when she went through the MSU system, through normal channels, the renovation and building was at the bottom of the list and safety issues were in mid-pact. When she went to the Board Of Regents it had been completely knocked out of the package, and that is what has happened to the Experiment Stations outside of Bozeman for the last 30 years.

Rep. Clark asked if she had any contact with the people proposing to build the agricultural complex in Conrad at the Governors Conference.

Sharron Quisenberry answered yes, she had a brief conversation with them.

Rep. Peterson asked if it would be possible for this bill to follow the agricultural station projects.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 27}

Sharron Quisenberry answered most defiantly that is correct.

Rep. Lindeen asked what Rep. Gallik thinks of allowing this study to be done through the Agricultural Interim Committee and could they come up with the same results.

Rep. Gallik answered it made no difference to him as long as they get to the point of determining if agriculture in Montana will be able to keep up with the neighbors or if we are going to keep falling further behind.

Rep. Witt asked **Dean Quisenberry** if she would provide information about and go through the agricultural complex they are proposing in Conrad for him sometime.

Rep. McCann asked if Dean Quisenberry was around during the special session and if there is an existing program to pursue this type of feasible opportunity.

Sharron Quisenberry answered, no, there is not.

Rep. McCann, Rep. Witt questioned Dean Quisenberry about the funding for HB 501 and **Rep. Lewis** asked Rep. Gallik about the Vision 2000 Task Force.

CLOSING BY SPONSOR:

Rep. Gallik closed the hearing on HB 501.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

Rep. Haines brought forward to the committee discussion on the Appropriations Committee sponsoring a bill. **EXHIBIT (aph36a03)**

Rep. Vick moved do pass to do a study on the bill. It passed 18-0.

TAPE 2 IS MISSING FROM THESE MINUTES.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:30 P.M.

REP. STEVE VICK, Chairman

PAULA BROADHURST, Secretary

SV/PB

EXHIBIT (aph36aad)